



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Private Bag X399, PRETORIA, 0001, Dr AB Xuma Building, 1112 Voortrekker Rd, Pretoria Townlands 351-JR, Pretoria, 0187, Enquiries:
Dr L Bamford Tel: (012) 395 8019, Email: Lesley.Bamford@health.gov.za

**PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT MCWH, EPI, NUTRITION, HAST AND PMTCT MANAGERS
DISTRICT CLINICAL SPECIALIST TEAMS
DISTRICT AND PHC MANAGERS
HEALTH FACILITY MANAGERS
REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES**

**NOTICE: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESS (IMCI) HOUSEHOLD AND
COMMUNITY COMPONENT (HHCC) MESSAGES**

IMCI remains the key strategy for reducing child mortality at primary health care level in South Africa. The strategy rests on three components namely; improved case management of sick children, health system strengthening and promotion of household and community practices that support the health and well-being of children. Whilst IMCI training of clinicians has focused on improving case management and health systems strengthening, since the inception of the strategy many healthcare workers and other community mobilisers have been trained on and have implemented the Household and Community Component (HCC) of IMCI using the 16 key family practices contained in the HCCC training manual.

However, since 2016 the Cluster: Child, Youth and School Health has promoted the use of the revised Road-to-Health booklet (RtHB). The RtHB is a tool for healthcare workers to record and monitor the provision of care and services from birth until the child reaches the age of five years, and also contained important promotion and preventative messages which aim to support caregivers, households and communities to provide the full range of care needed to promote early childhood development. The messages are arranged into five themes which cover what each child needs for healthy growth and development, namely good nutrition; love, playing and talking; protection from disease and injury; health care when they are sick or injured and extra care and support when it is required.

Many caregivers will need assistance from healthcare and other workers (including health promoters, community health workers (CHWs), child minders and early childhood development (ECD) practitioners) to understand and use these messages, and these cadres should use the RtHB and the RtHB messages to promote child health and well-being. The messages have been translated into all official languages in a message booklet known as How to raise a healthy child (see www.sidebyside.co.za). The scope of work and training requirements for CHWS have also been aligned with these themes and the messages and practices outlined in the RtHB.

It should be noted that the RtHB messages draw on the HHCC key family practices. However, because the 16 key family practices have not been updated, they should no longer be used as the basis for training of CHWs and other community workers. Training on community child health should be in line with their scope of work and with the child health promotion messages contained in the RtHB.

**DR LJ BAMFORD
ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: CHILD YOUTH AND SCHOOL HEALTH
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